

HED environmental engineer named Federal Employee of the year 2000

Story and photos by Alexander Kufel

Among thousands of selfless employees of the federal government, there are always a few who stand head and shoulders above the crowd. This year the judges panel of the Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board directed their attention to HED and found what they were looking for. At the annual awards luncheon June 8 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, environmental engineer Dan Nakamura was named federal employee of the year 2000 in the professional, administrative and technical category.

Nakamura is being recognized for his efforts to protect human health and the environment in a manner that established precedents for others to follow. The citation notes that he saved the government \$15 million in fiscal-year 1999 and is being recognized for forming "strategic alliances in building environmentally conscious technologies that bring Hawaii closer to self-sustainability."

While the immediate response throughout both the Division and the District was jubilant, those familiar with Nakamura expressed satisfaction at his recognition rather than surprise.

"This is a wonderful moment for all of us," said POD Chief of Staff Col. Donald Pawlowski.

"I'm delighted that Dan was selected," said HED commander Lt. Col. Wally Z. Walters. "He truly exemplifies the type of employees of whom we

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The flower leis and the smile on Dan Nakamura's face clearly tell the story moments after his selection as Federal Employee of the Year (Professional, Administrative, Technical).

Final phase of HED office relocations begun

In retrospect, no one expected people to actually enjoy moving out of their long-term offices into different and decidedly decrepit spaces in a building scheduled for demolition. But, despite all the extra work involved, people from Emergency Management Division (EMD), Office of Counsel (OC), and Public Affairs (PAO) were heard saying that building T-1 had a "nice feel" about it, that they were enjoying the wide-open spaces of their temporary quarters, that they found themselves discussing more things with co-workers simply because it was easier to do so, and that it was too bad they had to leave.

Before this, moving for six to eight weeks had all the makings of a disaster about to happen. With two moves on the books for three workgroups before the middle of August, the potential

was intensified.

"Look at it this way," said deputy HED commander Maj. David Goddard, "A little inconvenience now will spare everyone from major inconvenience later. It's much better to avoid the dust and noise of construction and be already packed to move into the final spaces when the time comes than to suffer through the experience every day for several months."

And so it was that the ongoing game of "musical chairs" that required moving into building T-1 was necessary to allow for renovation of existing spaces in buildings 230 and 214 and also permitted efficient scheduling of the work to be done.

This time when the dust settles, Division offices will have

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Knowledge: *It is the tragedy of the world that no one knows what he doesn't know—and the less a man knows, the more sure he is that he knows everything. —(Arthur)Joyce Cary, Irish author, 1888-1957*

Regional Roundup

Kuhr assumes command of Far East District

Story by Gloria Stanley, FED

Seoul, Korea—Change of command ceremonies for the Far East were held Tuesday, June 6. Col. Gregory S. Kuhr assumed command from Col. David Rehbein, to become the 27th commander of FED. Brig. Gen. Randal Castro, Pacific Ocean Division Commander, presided over the ceremony.

As FED commander, Kuhr will be responsible for the military construction activities for all U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) activities throughout the Republic of Korea. District construction projects in Korea have ranged from mountaintop communications sites to harbor complexes and include the Dragon

Hill lodge, DoD schools, a trans-Korea pipeline and the creation of entire military communities.

Kuhr's previous assignment was as an Assistant Director for the Deputy Commanding General for Military Programs at USACE headquarters.



Soldiers from 249th Engineer Battalion hook up a 35 kilowatt generator outside of the Corps' Emergency Operations Center in building 230 during the statewide Makani Pahili hurricane preparedness exercise May 8-12. Photo by Alexander Kufel

Feighny Receives Prestigious Arrowhead Award

Story by Doug MaKitten

Michael Feighny, Pacific Ocean Division counsel and acting Honolulu District counsel, has been selected for the Corps of Engineers prestigious Spirit of Arrowhead award.

The award is the highest presented by the Corps' chief counsel. It goes annually to the legal manager who, in the judgment of the chief counsel, best exemplifies excellence in service to clients and leadership, and who has made significant contributions to Corps-wide legal services.

Feighny's selection was announced at the division counsels annual meeting in June. He will receive the award from Corps Chief Counsel Robert M. Andersen later this year.

"I was very surprised and humbled and particularly touched to be selected," said Feighny. "This same award was received by Bert Pettinato (a former POD chief counsel who died in 1993), who was one of my mentors. The Arrowhead award means a lot to me because I know and respect many of the previous recipients who, like Bert, are outstanding representatives of our profession."

Feighny also was quick to praise his staff.

"We have a very strong office and credit is due to all the people who work in this office, not just to me, for this award," said Feighny. "We try our best to help the commander, the project managers, Contracting and everyone else find legal ways to accomplish our mission. And I think we have been successful."

Pacific Ocean Division commander Brig. Gen. Randal R. Castro nominated Feighny for his outstanding service in supervising the legal activities of both POD and HED since 1995. The nomination notes Feighny's inspiring leadership, through times of constrained resources and reorganization, and the successful integration of the Alaska District's legal office into the Division's legal services system.

The Spirit of Arrowhead award dates back to the Corps' first worldwide legal services conference held in Lake Arrowhead, Georgia in 1984. The award celebrates and reaffirms the commitment to leadership and excellence that arose at that conference. The award inscribed with each recipient's name and year of selection remains on permanent display at the Office of the Chief Counsel at Corps headquarters.

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moved completely out of building 230 and into the third floor of building 525. The District Commander will move from the second floor of building 230 to the third floor. EMD will move with the Division and into new EOC (Emergency Operations Center) facilities for the Division and for the District also on the third

floor of building 525. OC will return to its newly renovated offices on the ground floor of building 230. PAO will move into offices formerly occupied by the Provost Marshall on the third floor of building 230, and Civil Works, Technical Branch will take up residency in a newly renovated building T-214. Human Resources and Division EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) will follow suit to building 525 and the District EEO will occupy a new office in building 230. And then everyone can rest.--Alexander Kufel